

**Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Notes**  
**Meeting Date: March 17, 2010**

Members present: Michael Giangreco; Ann Czar; Peggy Wilson; Alice Angney; Adrienne Fisher; David LaCroix; Jean Haigh; Mary Koen; Sandy Bartley; Eileen Guyette; Mary Barton; Ernie Wheeler; Karin Edwards

Discussion/ Topic	Suggested Actions/Follow-up	Person Responsible	Timeline
<p>TOPIC 1: State Updates – New teams have been developed, special education is divided between Karin’s and Deb Quackenbush’s teams. VTDOE is interviewing applicants for the half-time assistant director/special education director, as well as replacements for Troy McAllister (will be the new Principal at Corrections) on the monitoring team and Dave Phillips (going to Banking, Insurance, Securities &amp; Health Care Administration) on the data collections team.</p> <p>State Regulations: Were approved by the State Board in February and awaiting a date for the Legislative Review.</p> <p>Co-teaching in the new rules is an allowable expense if it is listed on the IEP Services page. VTDOE training for co-teaching models will be available by this summer. CORE staffing rules are gone and replaced by the ability to use up to 20% of a sped teacher or paraeducator’s time working with other students on plans. Someone will need to document the up to 20% of the time for auditing purposes.</p>	<p>Finance and Internal Technical Support stayed the same. Integrated Support for Learning has two teams, headed by Karin and John Fischer. Karin and John’s team look at programming, Deb’s special education group is mainly data collection and monitoring. Standards and Assessments to review State assessments and data.</p> <p>Update: The Rules, with some corrections, have passed LCAR and been filed with the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Time studies or schedule examples need to be distributed.</p>		

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<p>TOPIC 1: State Updates continued – There will be a new round of Rule revisions. Issues of concern include, graduation completion and participation in ceremonies; alternative pathways to graduation; seclusion and restraint rules; adverse effect including how functional behavior fits into an educational performance definition; home study and details as the school's responsibilities when a home schooled child takes any classes through their local school (service plans for anything outside of school, IEP for any services provided for subject areas taken within the school).</p> <p>Small group rule may not apply depending upon how co-teaching is provided. We hope that grouping will be by need and not by financial considerations. Paras should not be allowed to co-teach. Continued emphasis on moving away from 1:1 paras (Michael Woods, Harwood Union High School) has shifted 7-8 paras from 1:1 status through the development of Independence Plans. Sometimes the criteria for reducing paras has backfired and justification has been made for MORE 1:1 services (safety, academic and behavioral issues), usually because it comes down to 1:1 assistance or nothing. Adrienne's district refers to the 1:1 paras as Temporary Aide Supports to get across the point that a 1:1 should not be forever.</p>	<p>Paras need additional rules for their performance reviews and training needs.</p>		

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<p>TOPIC 1: State Updates continued – Four consultants to work with 10 identified schools on School Improvement.</p> <p>Cross team work will include the development of a Statewide System of School Supports.</p> <p>We have a requirement to publish NECAP results by the disability subgroup. We recognize it needs to happen and it requires an integrative approach from Standards and Assessment and General Supervision Teams.</p> <p>A committee is being formed to review what we do and how to do it better as a response to Senate Bill 286,, the Challenge for Change legislation (see handout No. 68).</p>	<p>Students w/disabilities had 0% proficiency for the math area?</p>		
<p>TOPIC 2: Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the meeting minutes from the January meeting was made by Eileen, seconded by Michael and passed unanimously.</p>			
<p>TOPIC 3: State Board Presentation follow-up: Michael spoke informally to Faynesse Miller, Board Chairperson. Suggested that any concerns or letters that the Council develops should be copied to Carol King, VTDOE support person to the State Board</p>			

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<p>TOPIC 4: Uncategorized Special Education Systems – Ann Halvorsen, Professor in the Educational Psychology Department at in the California State University at East Bay visited here last spring as part of a sabbatical visit to many states and talked about Iowa’s non-categorical system for special education.</p> <p>In Iowa’s system, students qualify under similar criteria but are identified as an “Eligible Individual” or “EI”. The purpose of the non-categorical system is to lower placements by disability category rather than by need of the student. Does categorization (labeling) have a negative effect or no effect at all? The label should be more than a reflection of classroom services. Some adult services and systems are reliant on a disability determination by category. De-categorization will not solve all the issues, but could begin the discussion and culture.</p>	<p>Does a category drive service, teacher expectations, or effort?</p> <p>VT at one time did have a non-categorical system.</p> <p>Try to connect with Steve Mauer (Iowa) by phone during Council meeting.</p>		
<p>TOPIC 5: Legislative review – Challenges for Change Legislation (handout). Page 7 – what will be the impact on education when mental health budgets are cut by 5% one year and an additional 2.5% the following year? The challenge in education will be to reduce administrative costs by \$13.3 million in 2011 and \$40 million in 2012 with 25% being reinvested in instructional activities.</p>	<p>VTDOE has formed a committee to look into Challenge for Change and offer recommendations for cost savings (see copy of email for dates).</p>		

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TOPIC 5 Challenges for Change continued – Most other committees from other state agencies (mental health, human services) are not seeking input from other consumers.	One of the cost savings answers for Education will likely be school consolidation.		
<p>TOPIC 6: Miscellaneous items</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) When new rules are open for comment, email recommended rule changes to the Council membership.</li> <li>2) Is the 20% rule applicable to paras as well as special educators?</li> <li>3) Are School Quality Standards disappearing? If so, how do we assure equity?</li> <li>4) Can we be informed of the Challenges for Change response by VTDOE?</li> <li>5) Schools on the “improvement list” and required staffing actions. If a district chooses not to do one of the four remedies and not except federal monies, can they keep their current administration and staff?</li> </ol>	<p>Email to Council</p> <p>Email Carol King</p> <p>Concern for original errors in data.</p>	<p>Ernie</p> <p>Karin</p> <p>Ernie</p>	
Motion to adjourn was made by Eileen and seconded by Peggy.			